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# The Evans & Reeves Grapevine

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## IT'S TIME FOR ...

Flowering shrubs, trees and vines which like heat, perennials which bloom from summer's accumulated warmth, and the first annuals and bulbs which will provide cheer and warmth in the cooler, shorter days to come. Few people think of winter planting in August, but experienced gardeners in Southern California know that if they don't take some chances of killing young seedlings with late summer heat they will miss the prospect of early winter bloom.

Late August is none too early for the first ICELAND POPPIES and CALENDULAS that hit the market in flats (dozen, 50 cents, flat, \$3.60). Transplant them in early morning or late afternoon and keep them moist by watering lightly twice daily if necessary, or even covering them mid-days until established; you'll be glad of your extra trouble in November and December, or even earlier! SNAPS and STOCKS (dozen, 40 cents, flats, \$3.) are slightly more of a problem in hot weather and perhaps had best wait until September unless you're adventuresome or unless you live in coastal Santa Monica or the cooler parts of the Palisades in which case by all means plant now if you can get good sturdy plants. Regardless of where you live you can get another good crop of MARI-GOLDS (flat, \$3.) which should bloom into December. FREESIAS (75 cents per dozen, \$5. per 100) can also go in late in the month. And ask us for the pale yellow and pink POINSETTIAS—we should have them soon now—(\$1.25 in gallons) for fair bloom this winter and even better next year. COSMOS (dozen, 40 cents, flat, \$3.) from flats now should give good October and November cut flowers. And certainly winter SWEET PEAS from seed should be started as early as possible.

Outstanding perennial of the month for now and September bloom is ANEMONE JAPONICA, hardy, easy, prolific; for some shade and plenty of moisture. Pink, white,

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## FOR FOLIAGE AND FLOWER

## LOST IS FOUND

The jungles of Mexico and Central America have supplied us with many fine plants such as Poinsettias, Fuchsias, Begonias, Bouvardia, Heliotrope and Datura to name but a few. The most worthy introductions are seldom praised in the land of their origin—"familiarily breeds contempt" might be an explanation—so when we read of our subject for August—"one of the most interesting and showy trees of Costa Rica" we are doubly impressed. The same writer goes on to say, "it is hard to understand why it was not collected fifty years ago."

The object of this praise is a small tree called WERCKLEA INSIGNIS and it was in fact grown in Mr. Hugh Evans' old gardens in Santa Monica some twenty-five years ago where it bloomed, but as sometimes happens the plants were lost and to our knowledge it has not been reintroduced until now.

We are particularly pleased to be able to offer this fine shrub or small tree. It is well deserving of a place in every good collection and can qualify as either a first class foliage subject with its large orbicular

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# Hugh Evans

"If any one be in rapture with his own knowledge, looking only on those below him, let him but turn his glance upward toward past ages, and his pride will be abated, when he shall find there so many thousand wits that trample him under foot."

Any time we begin to think we know it all, something is sure to abate our pride. Gardening like all other human pursuits and avocations has its surprises, its moments of rapture and moments of disillusionment. Gardeners are like doctors and lawyers, you can get diametrically opposite opinions from them on almost any phase of the cultivation of plants. I know one veteran fern grower who will only grow Maidenhair in leaf mold, and another successful grower who prefers to grow them in clay. Curiously, they both grow them well.

I am of the present opinion that the majority of flowering trees and shrubs, taking for instance *Erythrinas* (Corals) and *Hibiscus*, respond satisfactorily to two or three applications of ammonia sulphate in spring and summer, about three weeks apart. This particular fertilizer, of course, has to be used with care, the ground should be wet before application and thoroughly soaked again after applying the fertilizer. Never use too much at a time, little and often is much safer than a heavy dose at one time. In fact, no plant should ever receive a double dose of fertilizer, it will do more harm than good. If your *Hibiscus* bushes are full of yellow leaves, the treatment given above will wholly alter their appearance and performance; however after the full pomp and pageant of mid-summer when the cool weather draws near, it is better to discontinue stimulating plants which are sensitive to cold, especially if they are planted in heavy soils.

To come back to the subject of knowledge, often when interviewing some young man seeking employment, I have asked him about his experience, and the young man has said, "Well, I think I can say, I know all there is to be known about growing plants," I think to myself here I am in the waning autumn of my life, knowing very little and here is this young man, who knows it all already. To paraphrase Oliver Goldsmith, "And still I gazed, and still the wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew."

## HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

### TRAVELING SALESMAN

Being the further impressions of our Phillip Chandler.

Cannes is worth at least two days—the pine-clad coastline looking west to the Esterel Mountains—red wind-worn rock, many-headed rocky peaks, and magnificent pine woods. Then there are the public parkways, all much the same and rather badly done but gay and tropical-looking. And one must wander the residential streets for glimpses of handsome town-house gardens behind high iron grill fences draped with *Wistaria* and *Bougainvillea*.

Palms and succulents are definitely the motif of the entire Riviera, French and Italian. Palms include everywhere and in quantity, quality and every possible manifestation and use, the magnificent *Phoenix dactylifera*, the fruiting date palm, often quite effective architecturally, particularly where under adverse conditions of little root room, wind and no feeding. In rich soil the plant gets fat and characterless. In parkways amid street, and on both sides, the use of *Phoenix dactylifera* in various sizes, or uniform, faced with *Chamaerops humilis* (native), *Cordyline australis*, *Yucca gigantea* (here called *Y. elephantipes*) and *Agave* (Century Plant) and *Aloes* is particularly pleasant.

Unfortunately the palm and succulent plantings are occasionally studded with native Live Oak (*Quercus ilex*) clipped round into balls or umbrellas and spattered beneath with *Petunias* and *Marigolds*, as is also done in California by misguided gardeners who wish to inject some color. With all the wonderful succulent tropicals for color filler—*Rochea coccinea*, *Crassula falcata*, *Kalanchoe* and *Aeonium* and *Sedum* by the dozen, the *Bergenia*, *Limonium*, and endless *Senecio*, why one must turn to temperate climate summer flowers just for color, the horticulturist will never know. They do make great use however of the hardier *Aphelandra* (same one we have), *Datura* (Angel's Trumpet), and *Strelitzia* (Bird of Paradise). Some old clumps of both *S. regina* and *S. nicolai* are said to have been blooming for more than a century.

Cannes has a magnificent beach front known as La Croisette, the crescent, shining clean sand, expensive beach accommodations and a clean wide promenade lined with Palms and *Lantana*, the water clean, clear and indescribably blue, alive with sail boats, canoes, rowboats, surfboards, and inimitable pedalo, which looks like a



# Rhyme in Season

If I were the official buyer,  
Of plants to suit each Western hill,  
I'd concentrate on Temple Fire  
For it would surely fill the bill.

Of bronzen foliage, reddish flower,  
This Bougainvillea will not climb—  
All other Bougainvilleas tower  
Above this masterpiece sublime.

So garden lovers pay attention,  
You green thumbs mark well what I say,  
If you want honorable mention,  
Don't wait too long: get some today.

G.F.H.

## SMALL PACKAGE

### **GOOD THING!**

In warm weather, of which we have had a generous share this summer, a small but singularly attractive plant with an overwhelming name, SCHIZOCENTRON ELEGANS (!), covers itself with a mantle of royal purple flowers not unlike those of the Princess Flower (*Tibouchina semidecandra*) to which it is related. Now so festooned, this creeping or trailing subject makes a beautiful rock plant in partial shade or coastal sun, or an unusual and singularly attractive basket plant. Its dense but delicate foliage spreads rapidly to a maximum three foot clump, and even the three inch pots (50 cents) carry a good deal of flower now.

Years ago some well-wishing but misguided soul saddled *Schizocentron elegans* with a name, "Busy Lizzie," which it has been trying to live down ever since, but we still receive an occasional postcard inquiring about "Busy Lizzie" which we are happy to supply as the purple-blossomed *Schizocentron elegans* that it is! M. E.

wooden bathtub riding on a pair of skis, powered by pedals. At Cannes some pedalos are equipped with sun parasols and even vases of Carnations. There is nothing more startling to the American tourist than the sight of an almost nude very portly couple half reclined under befringed golden parasol pedaling ever so slowly across the bay. she with an 18 inch cigaret holder and gold-rimmed sunglasses, idly sniffing magenta Carnations between long drags on the cigarette. And always the fat red knees of both occupants rising and falling in languid unison.

# IT'S TIME FOR . . .

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and dusty red, (gallon cans, \$1.). For similar use, a semi-herbaceous little shrub is BOUVARDIA (one gallon, \$1.) in white, red or pink (but only the white is very fragrant). Plant it in a little light shade inland, full or at least half day sun in cooler coastal areas; keep cutting off dead flowers, and give a little more food.

Flowering shrubs at their best now include DURANTA STENOSTACHYS, lavender blue blossoms in profusion, orange berries after, on a five-foot bush, for sun; NERIUM OLEANDER, single shell pink, single and double watermelon red, white, and double salmon (dwarfest; to five feet); HIBISCUS in all its variety of form and color; TURREA OBTUSIFOLIA, a three-foot, white-flowering shrub for a really well-drained spot; TECOMA CAPENSIS (*Tecomaria*), the Cape Honeysuckle, orange or yellow; CARISSA, the Natal Plum, in three heights—tall, medium, and prostrate—with fragrant, white star-shaped flowers and edible red fruits; and TIBOUCHINA SEMIDECANDRA, the Princess Flower, with flamboyant purple blooms, perhaps at its best with feet in the shade and head in the sun, with some acidity and frequent pruning back. (All \$4. and \$1., except one gallon *Turreas* at \$1.25).

Finally three vines to be considered now are PANDOREA JASMINOIDES ROSEA (also known as *Tecoma jasminoides rosea*) whose fine-patterned foliage is surmounted in warm weather by superlative clusters of pale pink flowers with rosy red throats, for strong sun and good drainage; DISTICTUS LACTIFLORA, the Vanilla-scented Trumpet, one of our most arresting summer and fall bloomers, flowers in shades of orchid, (\$5. and \$1.25); and BOUGAINVILLEA ORANGE GLORY, the finest bronze-to-salmon, most effective on red-wood walls and fences, (\$4.50 and \$1.50). P.E.C.

## **WERCKLEA INSIGNIS . . .**

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leaves or as a flowering plant as it bears handsome flowers like single Hollyhocks or Hibiscus.

Wercklea grows quite rapidly to about 15 feet in this climate, is not cranky about soil though it will appreciate good board, and is not nearly so tender as one might suppose from its origin. (Five gallon containers, \$6.50). M. E.



# *This is Trevesia!*

WILL NOT BE SHOWN IN  
ANY OTHER SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA RETAIL  
NURSERY THIS  
YEAR!

*These nearly three-foot snowflake  
leaves can ornament your garden  
and astound your friends for \$7.50  
(five gallon specimens).*

